

Analysis of
DEUTERONOMY

"MOSES' SERMONS ON THE LAW"

**"Moses Exposition of the Law in Transjordan
Preparatory to Israel's Entry into Canaan"**

"Across the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to expound this law, saying,"
(Deuteronomy 1:5)

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DEUTERONOMY

"MOSES' SERMONS ON THE LAW"

"Moses Exposition of the Law in Transjordan Preparatory to Israel's Entry into Canaan"¹

"Across the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to expound this law, saying,"
(Deuteronomy 1:5)

A 1 PROLOGUE: MOSES' REVIEW OF ISRAEL'S JOURNEY FROM MT. SINAI TO THE PLAINS OF MOAB 1 - 3

B 1 Introduction to the Book 1:1-5

B 2 At Sinai (Horeb) 1:6-18

C 1 Yahweh's command to leave Horeb and claim Canaan 1:6-8

C 2 Moses' appointment of leaders to share the administrative / judicial burden
1:9-18

D 1 The appointment of the judges 1:9-15

D 2 The charge to the judges 1:16-18

B 3 At Kadesh-Barnea 1:19-46

C 1 The peoples' request for spies at Kadesh-Barnea 1:19-25

C 2 The peoples' failure to trust God and claim the land 1:16-33

C 3 Yahweh's anger with the people 1:34-40

D 1 His prohibition of their entering the land 1:34-37

D 2 His promise of the second-generation entry 1:38-39

D 3 His consignment to wander in the wilderness 1:40

C 4 The peoples' foolish insistence on fighting the Amorites 1:41-46

¹ As commonly understood, Deuteronomy consists of a series of addresses by Moses variously beginning in 1:5, 5:1, 27:1, 29:1, 31:2 or perhaps better, 31:30, and 33:1. While this is true, the various divisions of the address are, in my estimation, incidental to Moses' *written* intentions, namely to expound the Law (1:5). So *all* the sections contribute toward this theme of *teaching* the Law and *exhorting* the people to *follow* it in following Yahweh.

The idea, noted in the *Ryrie Study Bible (RSB)*, that this pattern in Deuteronomy follows a typical suzerainty treaty form of that day is also valid. Nevertheless, the treaty form is insufficiently pertinent to Moses' intentions or to the "thought process" of the document to incorporate it into the outline.

B 4 From Kadesh to Moab 2 - 3

- C 1 Israel's avoidance of conflict with her kinship nations 2:1-25
 - D 1 The passage through Edom (the sons of Esau) 2:1-7
 - D 2 The bypassing of Moab (the sons of Lot) 2:8-15
 - D 3 The bypassing of Ammon (the sons of Lot) 2:16-25
- C 2 Israel's conquest of Transjordan 2:26 - 3:29
 - D 1 The battles with the Amorites 2:26 - 3:11
 - E 1 With Sihon, the Amorite King 2:26-37
 - G 1 The Divinely-directed baiting of Sihon 2:26-31
 - G 2 The decisive victory over Sihon 2:32-37
 - E 2 With Og, the Amorite King 3:1-11
 - D 2 Moses' distribution of the conquered Amorite land to Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh 3:12-22
 - E 1 The distribution 3:12-17
 - E 2 The exhortation of the 2½ tribes to continue fighting in Canaan 3:18-22
 - D 3 Moses' vain plea to Yahweh for permission to enter Canaan 3:23-29

A 2 MOSES' EXPOSITION OF THE LAW 4 - 26

B 1 Moses' Preliminary Urging of Israel to Follow The Lord and His Commandments Wholeheartedly 4:1-43

- C 1 Moses' exhortation to Israel to heed Yahweh's statutes and judgments in order to possess the land 4:1-8
- C 2 Moses' reference to Yahweh's initial striking of a covenant with Israel at Horeb (Sinai) 4:9-40
 - D 1 The reminder of Yahweh's making of the Covenant on Horeb 4:9-14
 - D 2 The warning 4:15-31
 - E 1 Against making a physical representation of Yahweh for worship 4:15-24
 - E 2 Of Israel's quick demise if they serve false idols 4:25-31
 - D 3 The uniqueness of Yahweh and His relation to Israel 4:32-40
- C 3 Moses' appointment of three cities of refuge in Transjordan 4:41-43

B 2 Moses' Review of Israel's History in Relation to the Law; His Exhortation to Observe It 4:44 - 11:32

- C 1 Introduction to Moses' Transjordanic review of Israel's Law 4:44 - 5:1
 - D 1 The introduction 4:44-49
 - D 2 Moses assembles Israel to **teach the Law** 5:1
- C 2 Moses' review of the original giving of the covenantal Law 5:2-33
 - D 1 Yahweh's fearsome, fiery delivery of the Law / Covenant at Horeb 5:2-5
 - D 2 The Decalogue (Ten Commandments) 5:6-21
 - D 3 The peoples' fear of listening to Yahweh communicate the Law 5:22-27
 - D 4 Yahweh's acquiescence to speak only to Moses, who would train Israel in the Law 5:28-33

- C 3 Moses' strategy for teaching the Law 6
 - D 1 His affirmation of his authority: Yahweh's command to Moses to teach Israel these self-same commandments 6:1-3
 - D 2 His methodology of pedagogy: constant parental situational discussion of the Law among their children 6:4-9
 - D 3 His warning against forsaking Yahweh amid blessings in the land 6:10-15
 - D 4 His warning against testing Yahweh instead of possession-facilitating obedience 6:16-19
 - D 5 His method for parental conveyance of legal significance to children 6:20-25
- C 4 Moses' emphasis of Israel's national uniqueness 7
 - D 1 His command to destroy utterly the idolatrous Canaanite nations 7:1-5
 - D 2 His reminder of the *basis* for Israel's privileged status under Yahweh 7:6-11
 - E 1 Not national merit 7:6-7
 - E 2 But Divine, loving faithfulness to His promise to Israel's forefathers 7:8-11
 - D 3 His command to obey to ensure national blessing from Yahweh 7:12-16
 - D 4 His encouragement in light of Yahweh's ability to help them destroy enemy nations 7:17-26
- C 5 Moses' command to learn from Yahweh's dealings with them in their past history 8:1 - 10:11
 - D 1 Remembrance of Yahweh's forty years of discipline and testing in the wilderness: Keep His commands and bless Him when He fills you 8:1-10
 - D 2 Caution against pride and self-sufficiency 8:11 - 9:6
 - E 1 When God makes them wealthy 8:11-20
 - E 2 Inasmuch as God's gift of Canaan is due to the wickedness of the inhabitants, not the righteousness of Israel 9:1-6

- D 3 Remembrance of rebellion 9:7-24
 - E 1 In the golden calf episode 9:7-21
 - E 2 At Taberah, Massah, Kibroth-hattavah, and Kadesh-barnea 9:22-24
- D 4 Yahweh's merciful continuance with Israel 9:25 - 10:11
 - E 1 Moses' intercession for Israel forty days and nights 9:25-29
 - E 2 Yahweh's merciful decision to spare Israel 10:1-9
 - G 1 His decision to remake the tablets of Ten Commandments 10:1-5
 - G 2 His setting aside the tribe of Levi to carry the ark and serve Him 10:6-9
 - E 3 Moses' second successful forty-day intercession on behalf of Israel 10:10-11
- C 6 Moses' concluding exhortations 10:12 - 11:32
 - D 1 His command to walk with circumcised heart and pliable neck in view of Yahweh's might, justice, and impartiality 10:12-22
 - D 2 His reminder of their own observation of Yahweh's deliverance and judgment 11:1-7
 - D 3 His urge to keep the commands to ensure possession of the land of Yahweh's delight 11:8-17
 - E 1 The exhortation 11:8-12
 - E 2 The incentive: rain 11:13-17
 - D 4 His command to think and talk about these commandments, teaching their sons, so Yahweh will drive out enemy nations 11:18-25
 - D 5 The mandatory curse and blessing at Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim 11:26-32

B 3 Moses' Exposition 12 - 26

- C 1 The Law of the central sanctuary 12
 - D 1 The command to destroy all foreign places of worship in the land 12:1-4
 - D 2 The command to bring all forms of offerings to the yet-to-be-revealed central sanctuary in the land 12:5-14
 - E 1 The general principle 12:5-12
 - E 2 The specific reference to burnt offerings 12:13-14
 - D 3 The permission to eat meat at home 12:15-19
 - E 1 The reference to meat 12:15-16
 - E 2 The command to bring tithes and free will offerings to the sanctuary 12:17-19
 - D 4 The instructions concerning the disposal of blood 12:20-28
 - E 1 When slaughtering animals at home for meat 12:20-25
 - E 2 When offering animals at the sanctuary 12:26-28
 - D 5 The warning not to seek after false gods in the land 12:29-31
 - D 6 The injunction not to add to or subtract from Yahweh's commands 12:32
- C 2 Laws concerning those who lead others to follow false gods 13
 - D 1 The execution of a sign-performing prophet who leads to other gods 13:1-5
 - D 2 The participation in stoning of relative or friend enticing Israelis to follow other gods 13:6-11
 - D 3 The participation in destroying the total contents of a city that follows other gods 13:12-18
- C 3 Laws largely concerning diet 14:1-21
 - D 1 The prohibition against defacing oneself for the sake of the dead on account of the unique relation of Israel to Yahweh 14:1-2
 - D 2 Edible and inedible quadrupeds 14:3-8
 - D 3 Edible and inedible aquatic creatures 14:9-10

- D 4 Edible and inedible birds 14:11-20
- D 5 The prohibition against eating animals having died by natural causes 14:21
- C 4 Laws concerning tithes 14:22-29
 - D 1 Tithing of produce and first-born commanded 14:22-27
 - E 1 The tithe 14:22
 - E 2 The eating at the central sanctuary 14:23-27
 - D 2 Third year collection of tithes in local towns for the Levites commanded 14:28-29
- C 5 Laws concerning the sabbatical year 15:1-18
 - D 1 Regarding lending 15:1-11
 - E 1 The mandatory remission of debts to a Hebrew every seven years 5:1-6
 - E 2 The mandatory lending to a poor Hebrew even near the sabbatical year 5:7-11
 - D 2 Regarding slavery 15:12-18
 - E 1 The mandatory manumission and outfitting of Hebrew slaves every seven years 15:12-15
 - E 2 The procedure for permanent, voluntary indenture 15:16-18
- C 6 Laws concerning consecration and festivals 15:19 - 16:17
 - D 1 The mandatory consecration and sacrifice at the central sanctuary of first-born males of herd and flock 15:19-23
 - D 2 Instructions for celebrating the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread 16:1-8
 - D 3 Instructions for celebrating the Feast of Weeks 16:9-12
 - D 4 Instructions for celebrating the Feast of Booths 16:13-15
 - D 5 Summary instructions for festival celebrations 16:16-17

- C 7 Laws concerning leaders 16:18 - 18:22
 - D 1 Largely judges and courts 16:18 - 17:13
 - E 1 Instructions to appoint just judges 16:18-20
 - E 2 Warning against false worship 16:21 - 17:1
 - G 1 By setting up false religious symbols 16:21-22
 - G 2 By sacrificing a defective animal 17:1
 - E 3 Judicial process for offenders 17:2-13
 - G 1 The trial and sentencing for false worshipers 17:2-7
 - G 2 The supreme court for difficult cases 17:8-13
 - D 2 Kings 17:14-20
 - E 1 Instructions concerning the selection and lifestyle of a king 17:14-17
 - E 2 The king's mandatory possession and use of a copy of the Law 17:18-20
 - D 3 Priests 18:1-8
 - E 1 The inheritance of the Levitical priests: Yahweh and His offerings 18:1-2
 - E 2 The priests' portions 18:3-5
 - E 3 Instructions concerning the portion for a Levite serving at the central sanctuary 18:6-8
 - D 4 Prophets 18:9-22
 - E 1 Warning against adopting any form of false revelation in the land 18:9-14
 - E 2 Yahweh's promise of the Ultimate Prophet like Moses 18:15-19
 - E 3 Instructions for the discernment and execution of a prophet speaking falsely in Yahweh's name 18:20-22

- C 8 Laws concerning human relationships 19:1 - 26:15
 - D 1 Largely homicide 19
 - E 1 Instructions for the preparation of the cities of refuge 19:1-3
 - E 2 Definition of and protection for accidental homicide (manslaughter) 19:4-10
 - E 3 Definition of and execution for murder 19:11-13
 - E 4 The prohibition against moving a neighbor's boundary mark 19:14
 - E 5 The judicious use of witnesses 19:15-21
 - D 2 Largely warfare and soldiering 20:1 - 21:14
 - E 1 Instructions for screening of combat troops 20:1-9
 - E 2 Treatment in battle of distant enemy nations 20:10-18
 - E 3 The policy of sparing fruit trees in battle 20:19-20
 - E 4 Required atonement for a victim of homicide out in the country with no suspects available 21:1-9
 - E 5 Regulations concerning the taking of a wife from among captives secured in battle 21:10-14
 - D 3 Family life 21:15-21
 - E 1 The law of first-born inheritance in a multiple-wife family 21:15-17
 - E 2 The mandatory execution of a rebellious son 21:18-21
 - D 4 Miscellany: Property and clothing 21:22 - 22:12
 - E 1 The requirement of a prompt burial for a "hung" corpse 21:22-23
 - E 2 The obligation to protect a neighbor's livestock 22:1-4
 - E 3 The prohibition of unisex clothing 22:5
 - E 4 The mandatory sparing of a mother bird with young 22:6-7
 - E 5 The prevention of residential property liability 22:8

- E 6 Prohibitions against mixed production 22:9-11
 - G 1 Sowing with two kinds of seed 22:9
 - G 2 Plowing with an ox and a donkey together 22:10
 - G 3 Wearing a garment of mixed wool and linen 22:11
- E 7 The requirement of tassels on clothing 22:12
- D 5 Sexuality 22:13-30
 - E 1 The ascertainment of virginity in a rejected wife 22:13-21
 - E 2 Mandatory execution for adultery 22:22
 - E 3 Execution and reprieve in the violation of a betrothed virgin 22:23-27
 - E 4 The requirement of marriage in the case of pre-marital, unbetrothed sexual activity 22:28-29
 - E 5 The prohibition against incest with one's father's wife 22:30
- D 6 Cleanliness and purity before Yahweh, particularly in the assembly before Him 23:1-18
 - E 1 The listing of those barred from the assembly 23:1-6
 - E 2 The treatment of Edomites and Egyptians 23:7-8
 - E 3 Cleanliness and decency before Yahweh amongst the troops 23:9-14
 - E 4 The necessity of granting asylum to an escaped slave 23:15-16
 - E 5 The prohibition of religious prostitution 23:17
 - E 6 The banning of prostitution revenue as an offering to Yahweh 23:18
- D 7 Protection for the disadvantaged 23:19 - 25:19
 - E 1 The prohibition of charging interest to fellow Hebrews 23:19-20
 - E 2 The obligation to fulfill a voluntary vow to Yahweh 23:21-23
 - E 3 The permissibility of snacking from a neighbor's standing produce; the prohibition of harvesting 23:24-25

- E 4 Pertaining to marriage 24:1-5
 - G 1 The prohibition of re-marrying an ex-wife divorced from her second husband 24:1-4
 - G 2 The bridegrooms's one-year exemption from military service 24:5
- E 5 The prohibition of using a millstone as security for a loan 24:6
- E 6 The execution of a kidnapper in certain circumstances 24:7
- E 7 The reminder to observe procedures in the event of leprosy 24:8-9
- E 8 Regulations on security from fellow-Hebrews 24:10-13
- E 9 Fair treatment of a hired hand 24:14-15
- E 10 The prohibition of substituting persons in executions 24:16
- E 11 Regarding widows, orphans and aliens 24:17-22
 - G 1 Protection in justice and commerce 24:17-18
 - G 2 Provision of food 24:19-22
- E 12 The prohibition of excessive flogging 25:1-3
- E 13 The prohibition against muzzling a threshing ox 25:4
- E 14 The marital duty of a deceased husband's brother 25:5-10
- E 15 The prescription of punishment for an interventionist wife 25:11-12
- E 16 The prohibition of unjust weights and measures 25:13-16
- E 17 The obligation to destroy Amalek 25:17-19
- D 8 Firstfruits and tithes 26:1-15
 - E 1 The mandatory firstfruit offering upon residence in the land as shared with Levites and aliens 26:1-11
 - E 2 The prescribed tithe in the third year for the Levite, alien, orphan and widow 26:12-15
- C 9 Concluding statement on Yahweh's requirement of keeping commandments 26:16-29

A 3 THE PRESCRIBED BLESSINGS AND CURSINGS IN RELATION TO THE LAW 27 - 28

B 1 The Preliminary Commands 27:1-13

- C 1 The command of Moses and the elders to inscribe on rocks on Mt. Ebal the words of the Law upon entrance into the land 27:1-8
- C 2 The exhortation of Moses and the Levitical priests to obey Yahweh's commands and statutes 27:9-10
- C 3 The command of Moses to recite the blessings and curses on Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal 27:11-13

B 2 The Curses and Antiphonal "Amen's" 27:14-26

- C 1 For making an idol 27:14-15
- C 2 For dishonoring parents 27:16
- C 3 For moving a boundary mark 27:17
- C 4 For misleading a blind person 27:18
- C 5 For distorting justice due aliens, widows, orphans 27:19
- C 6 For various forms of sexual immorality 27:20-23
- C 7 For violence to a neighbor 27:24
- C 8 For violence for hire 27:25
- C 9 For failure to obey the Law 27:26

B 3 The Blessings of Obedience 28:1-14

- C 1 The spheres of blessings 28:1-6
- C 2 The consequences of obedience spelled out 28:7-14

B 4 The Curses of Disobedience 28:15-68

- C 1 The spheres of curses 28:15-19
- C 2 The consequences of disobedience spelled out 28:20-68
 - D 1 Diseases 28:20-22
 - D 2 Withholding of rain 28:23-24
 - D 3 Defeat in battle 28:25

- D 4 Death 28:26
- D 5 Diseases 28:27
- D 6 Madness and blindness 28:28-29
- D 7 Non-enjoyment of personal possessions 28:30-34
- D 8 Diseases 28:35
- D 9 Captivity 28:36-37
- D 10 Failed agriculture 28:38-40
- D 11 Children taken captive 28:41
- D 12 Plagues on agriculture 28:42
- D 13 Subordination to others 28:43-44
- D 14 Reason for the curses: failure to obey Yahweh's commands and serve Him joyfully 28:45-48
- D 15 Invasion by foreign country with attending evils like theft, famine 28:49-57
- D 16 All the diseases of Egypt and worse 28:58-61
- D 17 Yahweh's delight to destroy Israel 28:62-63
- D 18 Scattering among the nations 28:64-68

A 4 MOSES' COMMUNICATION OF THE WORDS OF YAHWEH'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL IN MOAB ADDITIONAL TO THE COVENANT AT HOREB ("The Palestinian Covenant")

B 1 The Introduction to the Covenant 29:1

B 2 The Participants in the Covenant 29:2-21

- C 1 Moses' encouragement to all Israel to keep the covenant in view of Yahweh's past faithfulness 29:2-9
- C 2 The participants: Yahweh and Israel's representatives with every individual 29:10-13
- C 3 The participants: Those present and those rebels-to-be-judged not present 29:14-21

B 3 Israel's Relationship to the Land in the Covenant 29:22 - 30:10

- C 1 The testimony of the future wasted land of Canaan: Israel's failure to keep the covenant as revealed in the Law 29:22-29
- C 2 The result of repentance: Restoration to the land of Canaan 30:1-10

B 4 The Importance of Obedience in the Covenant 30:11-20

- C 1 The nearness of the command as facilitating obedience 30:11-14 (Cf. Romans 10:6-8)
- C 2 The options for Israel: Life and prosperity or death and adversity – the blessing and the curse 30:15-20

A 5 MOSES' FINAL DAYS 31 - 34

B 1 The Preparations for Moses' Departure 31:1-29

- C 1 Moses' promise of Yahweh's presence with Israel and Joshua despite Moses' absence 31:1-8
- C 2 Moses' writing of the Law and committal to the priests and elders 31:9-13
 - D 1 The committal 31:9
 - D 2 The command to read the Law to Israel at the Feast of Tabernacles each Sabbatical year 31:10-13
- C 3 Yahweh's revelation to Moses of Israel's inevitable apostasy 31:14-22
 - D 1 The revelation just prior to Moses' death 31:14-18
 - D 2 Yahweh's command to write a song witnessing against Israel's apostasy 31:19-22
- C 4 Moses' commissioning of Joshua 31:23
- C 5 Moses' giving of the Law to the Levites carrying the ark; His prediction of Israel's apostasy after his death 31:24-29

B 2 The Song of Moses 31:30 - 32:47

- C 1 Introduction: Moses' speaking of the song to the gathered assembly 31:30
- C 2 Moses' plea for the productivity of his teaching 32:1-2
- C 3 The faithfulness and greatness of Yahweh contrasted with the unfaithfulness of Israel 32:3-6

- C 4 The past protection and sustenance of Yahweh contrasted with Israel's rebellion and spiritual adultery 32:7-18
 - D 1 Yahweh's provision 32:7-14
 - D 2 Israel's rebellion 32:15-18
- C 5 Yahweh's reaction to Israel 32:19-27
 - D 1 His anger 32:19-22
 - D 2 His intention to heap misfortunes on them short of extinction lest their enemies take credit 32:23-27
- C 6 Israel's lack of understanding 32:28-33
- C 7 Yahweh's ultimate vindication of His servants and His vengeance upon His adversaries 32:34-43
- C 8 Epilogue: Moses' warning to observe the Law carefully 32:44-47
- B 3 Yahweh's Instructions to Moses to Climb Mt. Nebo and Die 32:48-52**
- B 4 The Blessing of Moses 33**
 - C 1 Yahweh's revelation to Israel 33:1-5
 - C 2 Reuben: Life and numerical increase 33:6²
 - C 3 Judah: Help against his adversaries 33:7
 - C 4 Levi: Guide and teacher of the Law 33:8-11
 - C 5 Benjamin: A guardian 33:12
 - C 6 Joseph: The Yahweh-blessedness of the land of the one distinguished above his brothers 33:13-17
 - C 7 Zebulun and Issachar 33:18-19
 - D 1 Rejoicing in movements 33:18
 - D 2 Callers to worship 33:19
 - D 3 Tapping the wealth of the sea and the sand
 - C 8 Gad: The lion-like executor of the justice of Yahweh 33:20-21

² *RSB*: "The Septuagint makes the last half of the verse refer to Simeon, who is omitted from the list. This omission was probably because Simeon's portion of land in Canaan was within the border of Judah (Josh. 19:1-9)."

C 9 Dan: A lion's whelp 33:22

C 10 Naphtali: Full of the blessing of Yahweh; possessor of the sea and the south 33:23

C 11 Asher: Blessed, favored, affluent, leisurely 33:24-25

C 12 The unparalleled God of securely-blessed Israel 33:26-29

B 5 Appendix: The Death and Stature of Moses 34

C 1 The death of Moses 34:1-8

C 2 The unparalleled position of Moses as a prophet in Israel 34:9-12

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